

Annual General Meeting 2010

Fellowship of Evangelistic Ministries

By kind invitation our AGM will be held in

Hunslet Nazarene Church
Lupton Street,
Hunslet
LS10 2QR

8th May 2010

AGM: 1:30 - 2.30 pm

Refreshments provided

Report and Celebration Meeting: 4:00 pm

All members of the Fellowship of
Evangelistic Ministries are invited to the
AGM. Why not bring a friend so that they can
be introduced to the work and ministry of
FEM!

Sounding the Trumpet

January - March 2010



Sounding the Trumpet

Is Published by The Fellowship of Evangelistic Ministries
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This is a homiletical magazine designed to encourage and assist all who are engaged in the preaching of the pure Gospel of our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ.

One of the aims of FEM (as it is affectionately known by its members) is to give preachers instruction in preparation, format and delivery of the message of Saving Grace both inside and outside of church buildings. We trust that this magazine will be both a blessing and assistance to all who proclaim the Good News of sins forgiven and the hope of eternal life through saving faith in the Son of God.

Sounding the Trumpet is published four times a year. If you would like to subscribe please locate the subscription form on one of the pages in this magazine.

Articles included in this magazine are chosen for their homiletical content and not for a person's theological persuasion. As the Fellowship of Evangelistic Ministries is a conservative evangelical body, no articles by those of a liberal position will knowingly be included in this journal.

As a magazine by preachers for preachers, our aim is to provide Biblically sound articles and outlines.

today a immense upsurge of people turning to world religions, cults, mysticism's, spiritualism, horoscopes, and mediums of every kind. We see a revival in religious fundamentalism in every land with increasing numbers attending places of pilgrimage. Millions of people going to Mecca in Saudi Arabia searching for peace and righteousness. Over three million people going to a shrine in Sabbimala in India. Many Mosques throughout the world are calling the faithful to prayer five times a day. All these and many are hoping to obtain merit and finally salvation through their works and pilgrimages, but salvation is by grace alone. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God. Not of works, lest any man should boast." [Eph. 2:8,9]. "and cast forth the wares that were in the ship into the sea, to lighten it of them." When death faces men and women it sharpens the senses as to what is important and helps to decide what is important, life or possessions. When life is threatened we find that our vision is clear, our values change. Many things are being thrown overboard, discipline in the home and at school. Standards of morality are considered to be old fashioned now, resulting in great social problems. Homosexuality has become acceptable and "Gay" people are becoming a privileged class. Sanctity of, and faithfulness in marriage is being thrown overboard resulting in easy divorce and many one parent families. However throwing the cargo overboard did not make the ship any more stable, safer, or less likely to sink. "But Jonah was gone down into the sides of the ship; and lay fast asleep." While Jonah was asleep the mariners were fighting for their lives and the lives of all the passengers. What about the sleeper ? He was insensible , inactive, in jeopardy, unaware of the danger of himself and others around him. While all the things around us are being thrown overboard are we who claim to be the servants of the Lord Jesus Christ " fast asleep"? We have access into the immediate presence of God and are commanded to come boldly to the throne of grace and yet so often we cannot even be bothered to pray. "Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need." [Heb. 4:16]. Are we crying out to the Lord for the lost and perishing souls of men on the troubled sea of life, or are we fast asleep?

Jonah

A commentary series by David Moody

1:4. "But the Lord sent out a great wind into the sea.." The Lord God is the creator and upholder of everything it was easy for Him for "...he causeth the wind to blow.." [Psa. 147:18] because "...he bringeth the wind out of his treasures." [Psa. 135:7] Every thing that God does is that men and women may have the blessing of His presence and fellowship, so the storm was sent for this purpose. This was no everyday tempest, God was in it. "The LORD hath his way in the whirlwind and in the storm, and the clouds are the dust of his feet." [Nahum 1:3]. We need to remember that all the difficulties of life have a purpose and nothing is unplanned. This storm was the direct result of the disobedience of Jonah, but God turned it round to the blessing of all. "For he commandeth, and raiseth the stormy wind, which lifteth up the waves thereof. They mount up to the heaven, they go down again to the depths: their soul is melted because of trouble. They reel to and for, and stagger like a drunken man, and are at their wits' end. : Then they cry unto the LORD in their trouble, and he bringeth them out of their distresses. He maketh the storm a calm, so that the waves thereof are still. Then are they glad because they be quiet; so he bringeth them unto their desired haven." [Psalms 107:25-30]. "...so the ship was like to be broken." We see the ship of society, of our nation, of morals, of family life, of marriage, "like to be broken." In the sea of nations there are such terrible storms brought about by the disobedience of man to God's revealed Word, written and Living Word which will inevitably bring tragedy because they are not founded upon the solid Rock of Ages.

V 5. "Then the mariners were afraid and cried every man unto his god," Here were the mariners crying unto idols for help. Idols made by men's hands, which could neither see or hear. "What profiteth the graven image that the maker thereof hath graven it; the molten image, and a teacher of lies, that the maker of his work trusteth therein, to make dumb idols?" [Hab. 2:18] We see

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A MERRY CHRISTMAS
AND A HAPPY NEW
YEAR TO ALL OUR
READERS

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What is the Church?

‘Ekklesia’- The called out ones

The word church can have many different meanings. It can be a church building, an assembly of Christians, a worship service, a particular denomination. But what does the word actually mean and where does it originate?

We have, as always to look at the Bible, and check things back to the scriptures. We have to firstly appreciate that the New Testament was written in Greek. The word translated from the Greek text as church is ‘Ekklesia’, or ecclesia in it’s Latin equivalent. In researching this word it seems that it’s meaning is to be ‘called out’. Either an assembly or community which is called out from the world. The elected, called out ones. In 1611 King James 1 of England, authorized what we now know as the King James Bible. The word Ekklesia does not appear in the KJ version, but has been translated as ‘church.’

But where does the word Church have it’s origin. It is thought to have derived from the Greek word Ku-ri-os which means Lord. And the word Kuriakos, meaning belonging to the Lord. Some believe these words became in Old English Cirice, and in German Kirche, and in Scottish Kirk. So now these have become in English -‘Church’. If this is the correct origin of the word, then church means - ‘belonging to the Lord.’ And it’s great to belong to the Lord, but it does not have the same meaning as Ekklesia.

It is the word ekklesia, that was in the original text, and it’s meaning fits much better with me, because it talks of separation. Being called out as a community of believers. Not just belonging to the Lord, but a departure from worldliness. The Bible confirms this with the following scriptures;

James 4v4; ‘Friendship with the world is enmity with God.’ 1 John 2v15 ‘Love not the world, neither the things that are in the world. If any man love the world, the love of the Father is not in him.’ 1 John 4v4 ‘ Greater is He that is in you, than he that is in the world.’ Romans 1v1 ‘Paul, a servant of Jesus Christ, called to be an apostle, separated unto the Gospel of God.’

Eternally saved

Romans 8:30, “And those He predestined, He also called; those He called, He also justified; those He justified, He also glorified.” This verse tells us that from the moment God chooses us, it is as if we are glorified in His presence in heaven. There is nothing that can prevent a believer from one day being glorified because God has already purposed it in heaven. Once a person is justified, his salvation is guaranteed - he is as secure as if he is already glorified in heaven. Our names are written in the ‘book of life’. It is God’s guarantee. They don’t come better than that.

Eph 6:13-19, “Wherefore take unto you the whole armour of God, that ye may be able to withstand in the evil day, and having done all, to stand. Stand therefore, having your loins girt about with truth, and having on the breastplate of righteousness; And your feet shod with the preparation of the gospel of peace; Above all, taking the shield of faith, wherewith ye shall be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked. And take the helmet of salvation, and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God: Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the Spirit, and watching thereunto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints; And for me, that utterance may be given unto me, that I may open my mouth boldly, to make known the mystery of the gospel. These verses state that as Christians we will be under attack, but we can take hold of them and be reassured that we can overcome the spiritual forces, and that if Jesus were tested, and He was the Lord, then we will be too.

Conclusion

He created the earth for His pleasure and did it all for us to have a relationship with. So we should praise God constantly for what He has done for us and give thanks always. We must build the churches and encourage Christians to help others. Bind our people and church together. Be filled with joy. Share the gospel because it is a command from Jesus in Matthew 28:19, “Go ye therefore, and teach all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.” Jesus simply said ‘follow me’ and people dropped their nets and went after Him, but here he said, “Go.” This is His command to us all.

Ian Rowley

According to Pope Gregory the Great in the 6th century, the seven deadly sins are as follows: pride, envy, gluttony, lust, anger, greed, and sloth. Although these are undeniably sins, they are never given the description of "the seven deadly sins" in the Bible. So how do we get salvation from sin?

The enormity of Gods love for us

"I am crucified with Christ: nevertheless I live; yet not I, but Christ liveth in me: and the life which I now live in the flesh I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me" (Galatians 2:20.)

So how do we receive Gods love? One way is believing that Jesus died for you? By repenting of your sins and asking Jesus to be your personal Saviour. "For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God" (Ephesians 2:8). Romans 10:9, "That if thou shalt confess with thy mouth the Lord Jesus, and shalt believe in thine heart that God hath raised Him from the dead, thou shalt be saved." 1 Thessalonians 5:9, "God did not appoint us to suffer wrath but to receive salvation through our Lord Jesus." Acts 4:12, "Salvation is found in no one else, for there is no other name under heaven given to men by which we must be saved." Romans 5:10, "For if, when we were God's enemies, we were reconciled to Him through the death of His Son, how much more, having been reconciled, shall we be saved through His life!" Ephesians 1:7, "In Him we have redemption through His blood, the forgiveness of sins, in accordance with the riches of God's grace."

Jesus said, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty" (John 6:35). "I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will never walk in darkness, but will have the light of life" (John 8:12). "I am the gate; whoever enters through me will be saved. He will come in and go out, and find pasture" (John 10:9). "I am the good shepherd; I know my sheep and my sheep know me" (John 10:11, 14). "I am the resurrection and the life. He who believes in me will live, even though he dies; and whoever lives and believes in me will never die" (John 11:25-26). "I am the way and the truth and the life. No one comes to the Father except through me" (John 14:6).

Let's break the word ecclesia, down further- ecc-means out, and Kaleo- means call, this is where the word originates, as an outward call. We use words that relate to this, such as ecclesiastical- belonging or involving the church, and as we know ecclesiastes- the book within the Bible.

We are told that Christ is the head of the church, and that the faithful believers are the body of Christ. But do we struggle at times with being separated from the world? The key is to be in the world but not of it, set apart. But if people see no or little difference between the world and the Church, what kind of witness or testimony are we giving out? We can't separate ourselves from people, because we all have a great commission. But we can be separate from worldly lusts. Being called out does not mean we shouldn't reach out to people. Some will see that we are different, the Bible says even peculiar. We have an outward call- 'The Ekklesia.' 2 Corin 6v17 ' Wherefore, come out from among them, and be ye separate.'

Richard Hardy

What an Opportunity!

Philip is an excellent example of how every Christian ought to be when it comes to sharing our faith with others. Often we find witnessing to others, especially strangers, very daunting, but it need not be that way if we follow the principles we find in Acts 8:26-40. God wants to make the best use of us when opportunities open up to us to speak to others about the Lord Jesus Christ.

Open heart

"And the angel of the Lord spake unto Philip, saying, Arise, and go toward the south unto the way that goeth down from Jerusalem unto Gaza, which is desert" (Acts 8:26).

The followers of Christ were faithfully preaching the Gospel as the Lord commanded. "Go ye into all the world, and preach the gospel to every creature. He that believeth and is baptized shall be saved; but he that believeth not shall be damned" (Mark

16:15-16) ... “Ye shall be witnesses unto me both in Jerusalem, and in all Judaea, and in Samaria, and unto the uttermost part of the earth” (Acts 1:8). They were accomplishing this through the power and anointing of the Holy Spirit. Though it was an angel that directed Philip towards Gaza, we can see the principle of being led by the Holy Spirit.

Romans 8:14 states that “as many as are led by the Spirit of God, they are the sons of God.” Have we ever thought about this verse in the light of our topic? It does not have to be extraordinary direction, as with the case of Philip, but the Spirit of God still wants to guide us where we can be the most effective. “In all thy ways acknowledge him, and he shall direct thy paths” (Proverbs 3:6). This means that we must be sensitive to the voice of the Spirit if we want Him to mightily use us.

Open eyes and open ears

“And he arose and went: and, behold, a man of Ethiopia, an eunuch of great authority under Candace queen of the Ethiopians, who had the charge of all her treasure, and had come to Jerusalem for to worship, was returning, and sitting in his chariot read Esaias the prophet. Then the Spirit said unto Philip, Go near, and join thyself to this chariot. And Philip ran thither to him, and heard him read the prophet Esaias, and said, Understandest thou what thou readest?” (Acts 8:27-30).

When Philip arrived in the desert of Gaza, he noticed a man reading a scroll, which he must have paid a high price for, while being driven in his chariot. The Holy Spirit told him to catch up with the chariot. It is possible that Philip was given supernatural strength to run after the speeding vehicle, as was the case with Elijah, “And the hand of the LORD was on Elijah; and he girded up his loins, and ran before Ahab to the entrance of Jezreel” (1 Kings 18:46), but it is doubtful that the chariot was going that fast since the Ethiopian was reading. Nevertheless, Philip did not question the unusual instruction.

Maybe the Lord has us in the right place but our eyes are not open to see the opportunity that He has prepared for us. There are times when God will tell us to run in a certain direction otherwise the opportunity might pass us by and be lost for ever.

Continued on page 8

Rom 6:23, sin brings death. [3] Rom 5:28, Jesus died for us. [4] Rom 10:8-10, to be forgiven we must confess Jesus as Lord. God's plan of salvation is not just found in 1 Peter or Romans, but also throughout the Bible.

The enormity of our sin

“For God so loved the world, that he gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). Sin was so serious to God that He gave His son for all, to finally conquer sin for good. Sin was defeated on the cross. Sin is abounding today; people are so sinful they don't know that they are sinning. We are born in sin, “And God saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every imagination of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually” (Genesis 6:5).

Extract from LWBC.co.uk:

Many of us think that God cannot use us. Some past sin has hindered our faith. Let's look at David and his sin:

- a) Laziness caused him to sin.
- b) Lusted after Bathsheba.
- c) Committed adultery.
- d) He tried to cover his sin.
- e) He arranged the murder of Uriah.
- f) He did not repent for over nine months.

It could not get much worse than this could it? But God restored him (Psalm 32). He made plans for the Temple. The Messiah came through his line. If God can restore and use someone like David! If we want revival we must get beyond guilt and condemnation. It may involve repentance of unconfessed sin. But repent and take God at His word. Have you sinned like David sinned? Then David's God can revive you. David's God can still use you.

Proverbs 6:16-19, “There are six things the LORD hates, seven that are detestable to Him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, hands that shed innocent blood, a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, a false witness who pours out lies and a man who stirs up dissension among brothers.”

himself as a sinner that needed to be cleansed from all unrighteousness. He was challenged to repent and be baptised, and the Ethiopian took up the challenge wholeheartedly. He would have remained confused and unsaved all the way back to Africa if Philip had not been committed to obeying the leading of the Holy Spirit.

We should not be afraid to lay down challenges too. This does not mean that we have to twist someone's arm until they say the "sinner's prayer", but we can straightforwardly encourage them to repent and turn to Christ.

Conclusion

How many opportunities pass us by? How many are lost and confused because we do not obey what the Lord has called us to do. The Lord provides us with countless opportunities to tell others about the Saviour.

Gary J. Hall

THE ENORMITY OF SALVATION

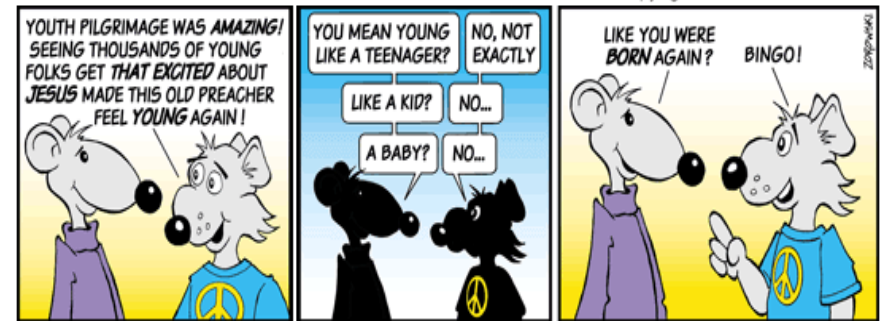
Genesis chapter 1 tells us that God created the heavens, the universe, and our world in which we live. 1 Peter 1:17-20, "Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation received by tradition from your fathers; But with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot: Who verily was foreordained before the foundation of the world, but was manifest in these last times for you." Christ's sacrifice for our sins was not an afterthought, not something God decided to do when the world spun out of control. The all-knowing, eternal God set this plan in motion long before the world was created. What a comfort it must have been to the Jewish believers to know that God planned Christ's coming and His work of salvation long before the world began. This assured them that the law was not being scrapped because it didn't work, but that both the law and the coming of Christ were part of God's eternal plan, and its our assurance now.

The way of salvation: [1] Rom 3:33, everyone has sinned. [2]



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PTO

We need to keep our ears open, not to poke our noses into other people's business, but to find opportunity to talk about Christ. This might be as simple as overhearing someone commenting on a religious news item or even a blasphemous remark. What a wonderful, God-given opportunity it is to find someone interested in and discussing what the Bible says!

Open Bible

"And he said, How can I, except some man should guide me? And he desired Philip that he would come up and sit with him. The place of the scripture which he read was this, He was led as a sheep to the slaughter; and like a lamb dumb before his shearer, so opened he not his mouth: In his humiliation his judgment was taken away: and who shall declare his generation? for his life is taken from the earth" (Acts 8:31-34).

Philip did not discuss how the Ethiopian enjoyed his time in Jerusalem or if he had any other holidays planned, instead he was keen to get right down to the understanding of God's word. The Scriptures must be the very foundation on which we build a conversation with those who do not know the Lord as Saviour.

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Our paths may never cross again, so it is vital that we get straight to the point, because that is why God has given us the opportunity.

Open door

"Then Philip opened his mouth, and began at the same scripture, and preached unto him Jesus" (Acts 8:35).

Did Philip need courage to speak so directly to this high-ranking Ethiopian official? No, all he needed was obedience to do as the Holy Spirit directed. He had already received the anointing of God to get the job done. He could expound the text before him because he had already studied the Scriptures for himself.

"Study to show thyself approved unto God, a workman that needeth not to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth" (2 Timothy 2:15). The door was wide open for Philip to teach the man about Christ.

The whole point in discussing Scripture is to bring our listeners closer to a true relationship with Christ. If we do not do this, then we are wasting our time. We must tell people who Jesus is and what He came to do. "And daily in the temple, and in every house, they ceased not to teach and preach Jesus Christ" (Acts 5:42).

Open challenge

"And as they went on their way, they came unto a certain water: and the eunuch said, See, here is water; what doth hinder me to be baptized? And Philip said, If thou believest with all thine heart, thou mayest. And he answered and said, I believe that Jesus Christ is the Son of God. And he commanded the chariot to stand still: and they went down both into the water, both Philip and the eunuch; and he baptized him. And when they were come up out of the water, the Spirit of the Lord caught away Philip, that the eunuch saw him no more: and he went on his way rejoicing. But Philip was found at Azotus: and passing through he preached in all the cities, till he came to Caesarea" (Acts 8:36-40).

Philip challenged the man with the facts about the Lord Jesus Christ and with his need for repentance. In an instant he saw